Campaign for Curbing Power Thefts

*528. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched a Nation wide campaign to curb power thefts;

(b) if so, the details of the campaign; and

(c) to what extent power theft can be curbed by this campaign and how much can be saved in monetary value ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to reduce the commercial loss which occurs as a result of energy thefts, faulty billing and metering, it was resolved in the Power Ministers' Conference held on 26-2-2000 that the State/UT Governments would implement the following measures :—

i. Energy Audit at all levels.

ii. 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.

iii. Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

iv. Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system.

(c) With the implementation of these measures, it will be possible to reduce both the technical as well as commercial loss. By eliminating theft and ensuring correct meter reading, it will be possible to improve revenue collection by about Rs. 20,000 crores per annum.

Setting up of NIFT and NID in NER

*529. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the action contemplated for design development of traditional handloom and handicrafts of North-Eastern Region towards making export quality products.